

American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics

March 16, 1976

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Mr. Arthur Kranish
Trends Publishing, Inc.
330 National Press Building
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Sir:

As chairman of the National Capital Section of the AIAA and a participant in the privileged briefing last Thursday evening by the Central Intelligence Agency, I wish to state that the officers and council of the section believe your actions which became public in the Washington Post on Monday morning are both unethical and self-serving.

You acknowledged in the by-lined article that you have deliberately violated an implied agreement with your fellow AIAA members and with the CIA briefing panel.


Journalistic ethics in connection with release of sensitive information harmful or potentially harmful to our national security is also at issue. In this day when newsmedia and newsmen purport to be vitally interested in ethics, honesty and fairplay; your inability to conform to an agreement casts doubt on your own personal integrity as a representative of that media.

Unfortunately, your actions add to the mounting evidence that no select group is entitled to privileged information due to the risk of at least one member being willing to misuse that information for his own profit. The briefing of information with attendant informal dialog by persons in industry and government is and has been very useful to section members.

Actions of which yours is an example will cause the number of opportunities for this free exchange to be guarded, less frequent or non-existent in the future.

In the view of the officers and a majority of the council of the NCS the honorable action would be for you to offer your resignation to our national AIAA organization.

Sincerely,


Paul M. Burris, Chairman
for the officers and council

PMB/gcp

cc: American Institute of Aeronautics and
Astronautics; New York, N.Y.
Central Intelligence Agency